

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 716

By McNally

A RESOLUTION relative to a commemorative presentation at the Lenoir City Readiness Center to honor the memory of the late Sergeant Mitchell William Stout, U.S. Army.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of a courageous member of the United States Armed Forces who gave his life while serving our nation; and

WHEREAS, the late Sergeant Mitchell William Stout, United States Army, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on March 12, 1970, while serving in combat in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2014, the active duty soldiers of the Lenoir City Readiness Center are hosting a ceremonial presentation dedicated to the memory of Sgt. Stout, who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously; and

WHEREAS, on this special day, the Lenoir City Readiness Center soldiers will unveil for public viewing a display case containing the military belongings and combat decorations awarded to Sgt. Stout, including his Medal of Honor and its certificate signed by President Richard Nixon; these precious items are on loan from Sgt. Stout's family; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, the late Sergeant Mitchell W. Stout was a member of the U.S. Army, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1970, Sgt. Stout distinguished himself during an attack by a North Vietnamese Army Sapper company on his unit's firing position at Khe Gio Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Stout was in a bunker with members of a searchlight crew when the position came under heavy enemy mortar fire and ground attack; after the intensity of the mortar attack subsided, an enemy grenade was thrown into the bunker; and

WHEREAS, displaying great courage, Sgt. Stout picked the grenade up and started to leave the bunker, but as he reached the door, the grenade exploded; and

WHEREAS, by holding the grenade close to his body and shielding its blast, he protected his fellow soldiers in the bunker from further injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Stout's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, at the cost of his own life, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit, and the U.S. Army; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the active duty soldiers of the Lenoir City Readiness Center upon their hard work and patriotism in preparing a commemorative tribute to the late Sergeant Mitchell William Stout, U.S. Army, who lost his life in Vietnam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor the memory of Sgt. Mitchell William Stout and his ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.